



## ***Respecting the past, shaping the future***

*Press release from  
Suffolk Preservation Society  
Date: 19/03/08*

### **Council needs measured approach to future housing growth**

Constraints need to be placed on the volume of new houses being built in parts of Suffolk in the future.

Suffolk Preservation Society says plans to build 510 new houses every year between 2021 and 2024 in the east Ipswich, Felixstowe, Walton and the Trimley areas, could lead to unnecessary loss of greenfield land.

The Society is reacting to Suffolk Coastal District Council's Core Strategy consultation relating to housing growth.

Richard Ward, Society Director, said: "We do not believe this consultation looks at other options that may be available in this three year period or the ability of the environment to accommodate this level of growth.

"In our view it should be possible to start planning for a reduction in housing building in the district by 2021 to be more compatible with local need and environmental capacity of the area. Such a move would also be more consistent, we suspect, with the aspirations of local people and communities.

"It would not be unreasonable to reduce the number of houses being built each year to around 340, a reduction of 510 within the three year period.

"We ask the council to consider these issues to reduce the number of houses being built and the amount of greenfield land being taken for development."

There is an estimated 8,000 empty homes in Suffolk, which could be used to address the issue of over development.

"It is not unreasonable to assume that between 500 to 1,000 dwellings are empty in the Suffolk coastal area and we would like to ask what is the council's plan to bring these back into use?"

The society has also highlighted some of the plans outlined in the consultation document as unrealistic, particularly developments in the Trimley areas.

Mr Ward added: "We consider the proposed development at the Trimleys to be against one of the fundamentals of the planning system, which is to stop the amalgamation of separate villages.

"Another proposed development straddles the A14, which makes it impossible to create a workable community due to the disruption, noise and pollution problems. And, again, appears to bring about the amalgamation of two parishes, namely Walton and Trimley St Mary.

"We believe the approach to future housing growth should be to build for local need, within environmental limits and capacities and with the support of communities. At the moment we feel the council is a long way from delivering these objectives."

**Note to editors:**

SPS, founded in 1929, originally worked to protect the county's buildings and landscape. Today, the Society has broadened its focus to help shape Suffolk's future, largely campaigning for sensitive and appropriate development, more and better quality affordable homes and to ensure sustainable infrastructures are in place to support the county's communities.

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